

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

SB 957 - HB 1557

March 31, 2021

SUMMARY OF BILL: Establishes a nine-member Tennessee Independent Redistricting Commission (TIRC) for the purpose of developing and submitting to the General Assembly, a redistricting plan for the US Congressional and Senate and House of Representatives seats of Tennessee. The TIRC may employ the services of experts, consultants, and support staff as necessary. Requires the TIRC to hold open meetings, solicit comments from the public, and maintain a website. Members will be reimbursed for travel expenses but not receive compensation.

The initial TIRC will be established upon the effective date of this legislation and reestablished every ten years. Each TIRC will terminate and cease to exist on the day after the first regularly-scheduled general election for federal office until a new TIRC is reestablished as required by this legislation. Requires the General Assembly to appropriate funds to enable the TIRC to carry out its duties, with any unused funding reverting back to the General Fund at the TIRC's termination. Requires the Attorney General's office to maintain records of the TIRC upon termination.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

**Increase State Expenditures – Exceeds \$89,000
/FY21-22 and Every Ten Years Thereafter**

Assumptions:

- The TIRC shall be established upon the effective date of this legislation, or July 1, 2021, and will terminate in November of 2022; therefore, all costs associated with the TIRC will be appropriated in FY21-22 and expended in FY21-22 through FY22-23. Expenditures will be considered one-time, but will reoccur once every ten years.
- The TIRC will be administratively attached to the Comptroller of the Treasury (COT), who shall serve as the nonvoting ninth member of the TIRC.
- The COT will be responsible for all administrative matters relating to receipts, disbursements, expense accounts, budget, audit and other related items.
- The eight other members of the TIRC are prohibited from holding public office; therefore, no members of the General Assembly will be allowed to serve.
- The TIRC will be authorized to employ experts, consultants and staff as necessary, required to maintain a website, and members will be reimbursed for travel expenses.

- Due to multiple unknown factors such as who will be appointed to serve, how far such persons will have to travel in order to attend meetings, and the frequency of such meetings, a precise increase in state expenditures for reimbursement of TIRC members cannot be determined but is reasonably estimated to exceed \$4,000.
- Due to multiple unknown factors such as the rate of compensation for any experts, consultants, and staff which may be required, the number of staff hired, and the extent of any benefits which will be given to any staff, a precise increase in state expenditures cannot be specifically determined, but is reasonably estimated to exceed \$75,000.
- The one-time increase in state expenditures for various supplies for staff and TIRC members as well as costs associated with development of a website are estimated to exceed \$10,000.
- The total one-time increase in state expenditures for FY21-22 and every ten years thereafter is estimated to exceed \$89,000 (\$4,000 travel reimbursement + \$75,000 costs for staff and experts + \$10,000 supplies and website).
- According to the Secretary of State Records Management Division billing fees, the electronic records holding fee per gigabyte is \$0.04 annually.
- The Attorney General's office can electronically maintain the records of the TIRC upon its termination within existing resources.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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